

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SUVA 01692 01 OF 02 070611Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /015 W
-----128784 070617Z /13

O 070510Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY SUVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7889
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 SUVA 1692

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, TV
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL DELEGATION TO TUVALU INDEPENDENCE
CELEBRATIONS

REF: A STATE 225263, B) SUVA 1691

1. TRANSPORTATION AND ACCOMMODATION:

A. THERE ARE NO MORE SEATS AVAILABLE ON SCHEDULED FLIGHTS TO TUVALU. ONLY ALTERNATIVE IS CHARTER ON FIJI AIRLINES NINE SEATER BRITEN NORMAL ISLAND PLANE. COST US \$4,100 FOR TWO RETURN TRIPS TO ALLOW ARRIVAL TUVALU 29 SEPTEMBER AND DEPARTURE 1 OCTOBER. CHARTER COST FOR ONE ROUND TRIP SAME DAY SUVA/TUVALU/SUVA IS \$2,050 US DOLLARS.

B. FIJI AIRLINES FIVE-SEATER BEECHCRAFT BARON PLANE CAN BE CHARTERED FOR TWO RETURN TRIPS FOR US\$3,080.

C. AS ADVISED BY THE USS BENJAMIN STODDERT WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO DO HONORS FOR INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIES, THE ACCOMMODATIONS AVAILABLE ABOARD CONSIST OF ONE PRIVATE STATEROOM WITH BATH, ONE TWO-PERSON STATEROOM, BATH LOCATED FIFTEEN FEET FROM STATEROOM, ONE BERTH IN TWO MAN STATEROOM WITH BATH SHARED BY SIX OTHER PEOPLE, UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 SUVA 01692 01 OF 02 070611Z

FOUR CPO BUNKROOM BERTHS WITH SHARED BATH. ALL BATH FACILITIES CONSIST OF SHOWERS, SINKS AND COMMODOES.

C. ACCOMMODATIONS ON ISLAND OF TUVALU EXTREMELY LIMITED. THERE IS ONE HOTEL AND IT HAS ONLY EIGHT ROOMS. TUVALU IS COUNTING ON NAURU PASSENGER/CARGO SHIP CINCPAC ROUNDER WHICH CAN ACCOMMODATE 56.

D. THE USS BENJAMIN INTENDS TO ANCHOR APPROXIMATELY

1.5 MILES FROM DOCK AND CONTINGENT UPON FAIR WEATHER
WILL PROVIDE ONE 26 FOOT MOTOR WHALE BOAT WITH CAPACITY
OF 22 PASSENGERS FOR TRAVEL TO AND FROM FUNAFUTI.

E. LIST OF FLIGHTS FROM US TO FIJI AND RETURN
IS AS FOLLOWS:

HONNOLULU - NADI
PAN AM WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS
LV. 0015 ARRIVE 0430 PLUS 1 DAY
AIR NEW ZEALAND SATURSDYS
LV. 0100 ARIVE 0535 PLUS 1 DAY
CANADIAN PACIFIC THURSDAYS AND SATURDAYS
LV 1235 ARRIVE 1705 PLUS 1 DAY
LOS ANGELES - NADI
PAN AM TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS
LV 2015 ARRIVE 0430 PLUS 2 DAYS
AIR NEW ZEALAND FRIDAYS
LV 2115 ARRIVE 0535 PLUS 2 DAYS
AIR NEW ZEALAND SUNDAYS
LV 2345 ARRIVE 0905 PLUS 2 DAYS
UTA THURSDAYS (VIA TAHITI
LV 2335 ARRIVE 0910 PLUS 2 DAYS
NADI - HONOLULU
PAN AM TUESDAYS AND SATURDAYS
LV 2300 ARRIVE 0700 SAME DAY
AIR NEW ZEALAND WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS
LV 2215 ARRIVE 0630 SAME DAY
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PAGE 03 SUVA 01692 01 OF 02 070611Z

CANADIAN PACIFIC MONDAYS AND SATURDAYS
LV 1620 ARRIVE 0030 SAME DAY
NADI - LOS ANGELES
PAN AM TUESDAYS AND SATURDAYS
LV 2300 ARRIVE 1725 SAME DAY
AIR NEW ZEALAND MONDAYS
LV 0015 ARRIVE 1545 SUNDAY
AIR NEW ZEALAND WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS
LV 2215 ARRIVE 1605 SAME DAY
UTA THURSDAYS
LV 1825 ARRIVE 1850 SAME DAY
NADI-SUVA-NADI
AIR PACIFIC HAS AT LEAST FOUR FLIGHTS A DAY TO AND FROM
NADI.

F. HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS CAN BE ARRANGED IN NADI
OR SUVA AS SOON AS FLIGHT RESERVATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE
COST FOR SINGLE US\$25.00 AND DOUBLE US\$30.00. GROUND
TRANSPORTATION ALSO PRESENTS NO PROBLEM AND CAN BE
ARRANGED THROUGH TAXIS, HIRE CARS OR MINIBUS AT
APPROXIMATELY TOTAL US\$30 - US\$40 A DAY.

2. PARTICIPANTS. SO FAR FOLLOWING IS KNOWN ABOUT PLANS

OF COUNTRIES WHICH HAD BEEN INVITED TO SEND DELEGATIONS
TO TUVALU:

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PAGE 01 SUVA 01692 02 OF 02 070617Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /015 W
-----128816 070620Z /13

O 070510Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY SUVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7890
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 SUVA 1692

UK: PRINCESS MARGARET AND PARTY OF 4. ALSO
UK HIGH COMMISSIONER AND LADY DUNROSSIL.
NZ: NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSIONER AND MRS.
MCDOWELL. NZ MIN. OF AGRICULTURE AND ALSO
MAORI AFFAIRS MACINTYRE.
AUSTRALIA: SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PEACOCK
HIGH COMMISSION AND MRS. UPTON
COOK ISLANDS: DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR. RABATI
FIJI: DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, RATU PENAIA GANILAU
PNG: PRIME MINISTER OR SENIOR MINISTER
FRANCE: NOT INVITED.

3. DETAILED PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES WAS FURNISHED BY
REF B.

4. PRINCIPAL TUVALU DIGNITARIES WILL BE (A) GOVERNOR-
GENERAL PENITALA TEO, SCHEDULED TO BE APPOINTED AND
ASSUME OFFICE ON 1 OCTOBER. HE IS PRESENTLY IN SUVA
AND WILL BE THE AMBASSADOR'S DINNER GUEST AT THE RESIDENCE
TONIGHT, 7 SEPTEMBER, WHICH WILL PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY
FOR BIO INFORMATION.

(B) CHIEF MINISTER, TOALILI LAUTI, WHO IS AN
IMPRESSIVE MAN, ARTICULATE, INTELLIGENT AND FRIENDLY. HE
IS RELIGIOUS AND WORKED ON THE TRANSLATION OF THE NEW
TESTAMENT INTO HIS NATIVE LANGUAGE, A PROJECT WHICH WAS
ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN THE RECORD TIME OF ONE YEAR. HE
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PAGE 02 SUVA 01692 02 OF 02 070617Z

UNDERSTANDS THE LIMITATIONS TO ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF HIS COUNTRY, BUT IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE. LAUTI WORKED AS A CIVIL ENGINEER AT THE PHOSPHATE MINING COMPANY IN NAURU FOR 12 YEARS BEFORE BEING ELECTED CHIEF MINISTER. HE SAID THAT HE ENTERED HIS NAME IN THE RACE FOR CHIEF MINISTER WHILE ON HOME LEAVE AND HAD BEEN SURPRISED TO LEARN UPON RETURNING TO NAURU THAT THE THREE OPPOSITION CANDIDATES HAD WITHDRAWN THEIR NAMES AND LEFT HIM UNOPPOSED FOR THE POSITION. HE HAD, THEREFORE, TO RESIGN HIS ENGINEERING JOB AND TAKE A SUBSTANTIAL CUT IN SALARY TO GO HOME AND RUN TUVALU.

5. DRESS IS EXPECTED TO BE INFORMAL. SPORT SHIRTS WITH OR WITHOUT TIE FOR MEN AND STREET OR EVENING LENGTH DRESS OR SKIRTS FOR WOMEN.

6. THERE ARE NO PARTICULAR HEALTH PROBLEMS KNOWN IN CONNECTION WITH TUVALU. FUNAFTUI HAS A SMALL HOSPITAL WITH A DOCTOR IN ATTENDANCE.
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SAS ID: 1514696
Secure: OPEN
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Subject: PRESIDENTIAL DELEGATION TO TUVALU INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS
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To: STATE
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